



**MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT**  
**1100 Washington Avenue**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** October 29, 2004  
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**November is Boat Theft Prevention Month**

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The City of Miami Beach, as well as the surrounding waterfront communities, are constant targets of Boat Thief's, with outboard motors as the primary target of the thefts.

- Almost all vessels stolen are in the water at the time of the theft with the dock lines cut, although some were stolen on lifts.
- Almost all vessels are stripped of motors and various equipment close to where they are stolen from, and then abandoned.
- Almost all vessels are recovered within 12 to 48 hours after being stolen; most are recovered before being reported stolen.

The following suggestions may help prevent the theft of your or your neighbors' boat, and assist us in apprehending these thieves:

- Use motion sensing lighting and/or alarms where your vessel is secured.
- Secure your boat with more than just one dock line. Lifts and davits have been effective in preventing thefts in the past. Any locking device will help.
- Cover your motors (and boat, if possible). These thieves frequently "shop" for their target during daytime to fill "orders." This ensures a quick sale and high price for their efforts. Don't advertise to them! Yamaha motors, particularly 200 and 250 HP's, seem to be targets of these most recent thefts.

More to follow

- Outboard motors are mounted with four bolts - weld one of the nuts to its mounting bolts. Any reputable shop would be able to grind the bolts off for removal of the motor. Thieves are not prepared for this.
- Record your outboard motor serial numbers **EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR MOTOR**. Warranty cards and receipts sometime add or delete letters or digits at the beginning or end of serial numbers.
- Take notice of vessels moving suspiciously near backyards and secured boats. Write down description of persons and vessels along with the FL number if possible. Report those activities to the Miami Beach Police Marine Patrol at 673-7959 or 673-7659. In case of an emergency or a boat theft in-progress, please call **9-1-1**,